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granted, at least with regard to the reclamations previous to the order dated 9th May 1909.

Dewan's reply.—His Highness'Government had been feeling, for some time, that the time had come when, in the general public interests, reclamations from rivers, back-waters and canals—especially navigable ones—should be discouraged, not encouraged. Also, it was felt that, in most cases, these reclamations were very valuable, and the old *tharavila* of Rupee one (since raised to Rs. 3)was considered to be far too low for valuable lands like these. Hence the Government passed their order of May 1909 fixing a minimum *tharavila* of Rupees 25 per acre for *all* reclamations from back-waters, since extended to reclamations from rivers and canals also. In view, however, to the some-what different conditions of the Vembanad lake, the Government have recently reduced the minimum *tharavila* on the wet lands reclaimed from this lake from Rs. 25 to Rs. 15 per acre, and it has also been provided that, where the *tharavila* due by a single registry-holder exceeds Rs. 1,000, it may be paid in five equal yearly instalments. In regard to the prohibitory Notification issued, at the instance of the Madras Government, by His Highness' Government, some years ago, against reclamations in certain areas of the Vembanad lake, His Highness' Government have been in communication with the Madras Government for some time, and there is every reason to hope for a substantial modification of the prohibition, such as would permit reclamations in this area more freely than hitherto.

6. The inhabitants of the taluk are generally poor, and in consequence of the levy of *tharavila* at a minimum of Rs. 3 per acre, rising up to Rs. 100, and also of *thadivila* for *puduval* lands, the people do not go in for their registry and foreigners get hold of them for the cultivation of rubber, etc : some remedial measures should be effected to redress these grievances.

Mr. Ouseph Eippa (Member, Thodupuzha taluk) stated that, till 1084, the *tharavila* on one acre was only 7 fanams, but now the minimum *tharavila* has been fixed at Rs. 3 rising to a maximum of Rs. 100. The soil in the Thodupuzha taluk generally was not productive and the cultivators did not get from their lands enough to pay the taxes at the present rate, deducting the expenses of the cultivation, and in consequence, the people did not care to register *puduvals*. The lands had to be auctioned and foreigners got possession of these for the cultivation of rubber. The people, who mainly lived on the produce of the lands, were put to great suffering for want of lands to cultivate, and he prayed therefore that some remedial measures should be effected in this direction.

On being asked by the Dewan to give particular instances in which such grants of lands had been made by the Government to foreigners for the cultivation of rubber, the Member was unable to cite instances.

7. Irregularities and hardships connected with the registry of *puduval* lands and the measures for remedying the same.

Mr. Aiyyappen Narayanan (Member, Kottarakara taluk) represented that most parts of the Pathanapuram and Kottarakara taluks were hilly and major portions of them

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were treated as Forest Reserves. Thus there remained only few lands as *pudurals*. The poor inhabitants were deprived of the benefit derived from *pudurals*, in that they were unable to get them registered on account of the present high rates of *thararila* and assessment, the rate being Rs. 5 for *thararila* and Rupee 1 for tax per acre for *pudurals* not exceeding 10 acres, and Rs. 10 for *thararila* per acre for those exceeding 10 acres. When compared with the minimum rate of Rs. 3 for *thararila* and 3 fs. tax, this was very heavy. He also pointed out the long delay and unnecessary difficulties caused by the subordinate revenue officers, in the disposal of applications for *pudurals*. The Member requested for a substantial reduction in the rates of *thararila* and assessment for the registry of *pudurals* in the above mentioned two taluks.

Dewan's reply.—A report will be called for from the Peishkarand the matter will be enquired into.

8 The commutation into money of the paddy tax now levied on kuthagapattom lands.

Mr. Sankaran Kochukunju Channar (Member, Nominated) said that the holders of *kuthagapattom* lands were labouring under great difficulties in that theyhad to pay their tax in kind. They were even prepared to pay the tax at a higher rate of commutation than 11 chs. per para of paddy, if the system of payment of tax in kind was stopped in regard to the *kuthagapattom* lands. When the subject was mooted on previous occasions, the Government passed an order in the negative, taking *kuthagapattom* and *kandukrishi lands* as one and the same. The Member was of opinion that *kuthagapattom* was different from *kandukrishi* and as such the former should not be treated as the latter.

Dewan's reply.—The lands referred to by the Member are *kandukrishi* lands. The Government cannot make any difference between these lands and other *kandukrishi* lands.

9 Want of a Revenue Code for Travancore

Mr. C. Mathaven Pillay, B. A. (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the administration of revenue matters was, at present, not satisfactory, owing to the fault of the system. There must be a regular system of working which ought to be enforced. A long array of regulations was included in the Unrepealed Regulations, but there was no system about it.

Dewan:—You want all the existing circulars to be brought into a book form?

The Member proceeded and said that many did not find a place in the Unrepealed Regulations. The ordinary people did not know the procedure to be adopted with regard to cases such as *thirsu* and remission of tax in case of failure of crop, though there existed strict rules with regard to revenue

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